16 LC 33 6377S

The House Committee on Higher Education offers the following substitute to HB 801:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

- 1 To amend Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, so as to
- 2 revise various provisions regarding the HOPE scholarship; to include certain coursework in
- 3 computer science as optional rigor requirements; to provide for weighted scores for certain
- 4 college coursework; to provide for a biennial report; to clarify definitions; to provide for
- 5 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 SECTION 1.

- 8 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in
- 9 Code Section 20-2-157, relating to the uniform reporting system for certain purposes and
- 10 academic eligibility requirements to receive a HOPE scholarship, by revising subsection (f)
- 11 as follows:
- 12 "(f) Beginning with students graduating from high school on or after May 1, 2017, in order
- to be eligible to receive a HOPE scholarship, a student shall receive credit in at least four
- courses prior to graduating from high school from the following categories:
- 15 (1) Advanced math, such as Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry, Math III, or an
- 16 equivalent or higher course;
- 17 (2) Advanced science, such as Chemistry, Physics, Biology II, computer science, or an
- 18 equivalent or higher course;
- 19 (3) Advanced placement courses in core subjects;
- 20 (3.1) Dual credit courses in core subjects;
- 21 (4) International baccalaureate courses in core subjects;
- 22 (5) Courses taken at a unit of the University System of Georgia in core subjects where
- such courses are not remedial and developmental courses, as defined in Code Section
- 24 20-3-519; or
- 25 (6) Advanced foreign language courses.

16 LC 33 6377S

Students may take one or more courses in each category; provided, however, that a course may shall only be counted one time. The Georgia Student Finance Commission shall be authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the intent of this subsection."

30 SECTION 2.

31 Said title is further amended in Code Section 20-3-519.2, relating to eligibility requirements

- 32 for a HOPE scholarship, by revising subsection (b) as follows:
- 33 "(b) To be eligible for a HOPE scholarship, a sophomore, junior, senior, or first
- professional student seeking an associate, baccalaureate, or first professional degree at an
- 35 eligible postsecondary institution shall, in addition to meeting the residency requirements
- set forth in subsection (a) of Code Section 20-3-519.1:
- 37 (1) Meet achievement standards by meeting the following criteria:
- 38 (A) Earning a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at a postsecondary institution:
- 40 (i) At the end of the quarter or semester in which the student has attempted 45, 90,
- or 135 quarter hours or 30, 60, or 90 semester hours if such student is a full-time
- 42 student; or
- 43 (ii) At the end of three consecutive quarters or semesters if such student is a part-time
- student and has maintained part-time student status for three consecutive quarters or
- semesters; and
- 46 (B) Maintaining satisfactory academic progress in a course of study in accordance with
- 47 the standards and practices used for federal Title IV programs by the postsecondary
- institution in which the student is enrolled; and
- 49 (2) Meet enrollment standards by being admitted, enrolled, and classified as an
- undergraduate or first professional student in a matriculated status.
- 51 Beginning in academic year 2017-2018, the cumulative grade point average calculated
- 52 pursuant to this subsection shall include weighted grades for specific science, technology,
- engineering, and mathematics (STEM) college courses identified by the Board of Regents
- of the University System of Georgia in consultation with the Technical College System of
- 55 Georgia, the Department of Economic Development, and private eligible postsecondary
- 56 <u>institutions</u>, by increasing the grade assigned by the instructor to the student for any such
- 57 course by an additional 0.5 point if such grade is a B, C, or D. Such courses shall be
- 58 <u>academically rigorous and required for or leading to employment in high demand fields in</u>
- 59 Georgia in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Beginning with the
- 60 completion of the 2017-2018 academic year, the Georgia Student Finance Commission
- shall provide a biennial report to the chairpersons of the House Committee on Higher

16 LC 33 6377S

Education and the Senate Higher Education Committee at the following general session of the legislature. The report shall include the fields identified as high demand fields and associated workforce shortages in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and health care; the courses identified as academically rigorous and their relevance to such fields; and any other pertinent information that the Georgia Student Finance Commission deems relevant. The Governor shall be authorized to convene a task force to identify high demand fields and associated workforce shortages and may recommend to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia initial science, technology, engineering, and mathematics college courses to receive additional weight."

71 SECTION 3.

72 Said title is further amended in Code Section 20-3-519, relating to definitions relative to

73 HOPE scholarships and grants, by revising paragraphs (9.1), (13), and (16.1) as follows:

"(9.1) 'Factor rate' means the percentage amount established by the Georgia Student

75 Finance Commission against which the previous year tuition is multiplied for eligible

76 <u>public postsecondary institutions and</u> against which the previous year HOPE award

amount is multiplied <u>for eligible private postsecondary institutions</u>."

78 "(13) 'HOPE award rate' means the rate equal to the previous academic year HOPE

tuition payment to charged by the eligible public postsecondary institution multiplied by

the factor rate divided by 15. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the The Georgia Student

Finance Commission may adjust shall recalculate the previous academic year HOPE

tuition payment used to calculate the HOPE award rate to reflect changes in the mission

or sector of an eligible public postsecondary institution that affects the tuition charged by

84 that institution."

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85 "(16.1) 'HOPE tuition payment' means, in the case of an eligible public postsecondary

institution, the amount paid for tuition only based on the standard undergraduate full-time

tuition rate for 15 hours; and, in the case of an eligible private postsecondary institution,

the amount paid for tuition based on the amount established by the General Assembly in

an appropriations Act."

90 SECTION 4.

91 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.